

# Focus on 5th



August 24, 2011

Dear Parents,

We are glad to welcome you and your child to the 5th grade academic team. The 5th grade team includes Ms. Kraft, Ms. Manuel and Mrs. Peterson. Your child's homeroom teacher will teach Math and Reading, and students will switch between classrooms for Science, Social Studies and Writing. You will have an opportunity to meet the 5<sup>th</sup> grade team at our curriculum presentation on Wednesday, August 31.

## **I. SUPPLY LIST (PLEASE LABEL ALL SUPPLIES):**

- One (1) book bag or backpack
- One (1) package dry erase markers
- Two (2) packages square Post-Its
- Two (2) containers of GREEN WORKS Clorox biodegradable cleaning wipes
- One (1) eraser
- Two (2) packages colored pencils (for community use)
- One (1) package washable markers
- One (1) 12" ruler w/ inches and centimeters
- One (1) pair scissors (for community use)
- One (1) book for independent reading
- One (1) TI-15 calculator (can be ordered through school in Sept. 2011)
- One (1) old, clean sock
- One (1) flashdrive (512 mb)
- One (1) yellow highlighter
- One (1) package loose leaf paper (wide ruled)
- Two (2) glue sticks
- Two (2) packages 4 x 6 index cards (lined)
- Two (2) large boxes tissues
- Two (2) red ink pens
- Two (2) black or blue pens
- Eighty-four (84) #2 pencils (for community use - NO mechanical pencils)
- One (1) 1" 3-ring binder
- One (1) 3-hole, clear, plastic zippered pencil case (for binder)
- One (1) set of binder dividers with tabs
- One (1) 1 ½ " 3-ring trapper keeper binder
- Six (6) 3-hole punched 2-pocket folders

One box of Ziploc bags—

Last Name A-H Snack Size, I-P Sandwich Size, Q-Z Gallon Size

Students must have their Trapper Keeper with planner and all necessary classroom materials (i.e: pencil, paper, textbook) in class each day. After the first month of school, students will be strongly discouraged from going to their lockers for these items during class. After winter break, we may ask for additional supplies if we are running low.

## **II. HOMEWORK**

For your benefit, we write a **weekly** fifth grade newsletter. The newsletter is distributed each Monday and is also posted on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Wiki. You will find tests and long-term assignments included with the updates. PLEASE read the newsletter each Monday. Each student will also have an assignment notebook, which has been provided by Holmes School. These are valuable tools for us in our school-to-home communication.

Written assignments and study time will be assigned Monday through Thursday nights. You can expect that your child will have approximately 50 minutes of homework Monday through Thursday. Weekend assignments may sometimes be necessary. It is very important that homework is completed when assigned. Homework will be posted weekly on the 5<sup>th</sup> grade Wiki as well as on the individual teacher web pages. However, each day, students will be asked to write that evening's assignments in their assignment notebooks as assignments may change depending on what was accomplished during the school day. A student with a missing assignment may be asked to complete the assignment during lunch recess.

**Parents, please check the assignment book nightly to see if your child is writing down homework assignments.**

## **III. GRADES**

Trimester grades will be determined based on homework, class work, tests, completion of projects in a timely fashion, and class participation. A parent/guardian signature will be requested on all graded unit tests and major projects as an acknowledgement that the student has reviewed the test/project with a parent or guardian. Mid-trimester progress reports will be mailed home for any student not meeting grade-level standards. Report cards will be distributed approximately two weeks after the end of the trimester. Please sign any progress report and report card envelope and promptly return to your child's homeroom teacher.

## **IV. TEAM RULES AND CONSEQUENCES**

Holmes is a Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports (PBIS) school. Our school rules are:

Be Respectful  
Be Responsible  
Be Powerful through Peace

Students who choose to break the rules will receive appropriate consequences. Quality of student work and student behavior impact participation in special nonacademic field trips.

## **REWARDS**

Team and individual rewards will be given to students who have consistently completed assignments and demonstrate appropriate behavior. These include feather awards, Guilders (5<sup>th</sup> grade currency), class treat/activity, and others.

## **CONSEQUENCES**

Behavior not in keeping with classroom rules will result in a consequence. Possible consequences include the following: warning, student conference, lunch detention, loss of privileges, parent contact, office referral, and/or suspension. See the 5th grade behavior plan and the summary of the 5th grade token economy for more details.

## **V. READING OLYMPICS**

Listed below are the names of the Reading Olympics books the students will be reading this school year if they sign up to participate. It is one of the enrichment activities we highly encourage for all students. The students work in groups of three and divide the number of books between them. There is a school competition to determine Holmes School's best team. That team advances on to the district level which includes Oak Park and River Forest 5th graders.

### **Reading Olympics 2011/2012 Round 1 Fall**

#### **Fall**

The Magic Thief by Sarah Prineas

Extra Credit by Andrew Clements

Ella Enchanted by Gail Carson Levine

Naked Mole-Rat Letters by Mary Amato

Old Willis Place: A Ghost Story by Mary Downing Hahn

Bud not Buddy by Christopher Paul Curtis

Double Trouble Squared by Kathryn Lasky

Dovey Coe by Frances Rourke Dowell

Hoot by Carl Hiaasen

#### **Spring**

Black Storm Comin' by Diane Lee Wilson

Mostly True Adventures of Homer P. Figg by W. R. Philbrick

Jackie and Me: A Baseball Card Adventure by Dan Gutman

Last Shot: A Final Four Mystery by John Feinstein

Ruby Holler by Sharon Creech

Rules by Cynthia Lord

Running out of Time Margaret Peterson Haddix

Swindle by Gordan Korman

The Thing About Georgie: A Novel by Lisa Graff

Parents, you are valuable members of our team. The time you spend helping your child is greatly appreciated. Please feel free to contact us with any concerns, questions, issues, or thoughts on how to enhance our approach to your child's education. E-mail is our preferred method of communication and our addresses are listed on the District's website.

Please read and discuss this information with your child. After you have discussed this with your child, please complete the form on the next page and return it to your child's homeroom teacher. **Signed forms are due this Friday, August 26.** We are looking forward to working with you this year!

Sincerely,

Ms. Kraft  
Ms. Manuel  
Mrs. Peterson

**Return to teacher by Friday, August 26**

I have read the letter from the 5th grade team and discussed rules and consequences with my child.

Child's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTACT INFORMATION**

We feel that parent involvement is a crucial to your child's success in school. We appreciate any way that you can support our team. Please read the weekly newsletter for volunteer opportunities.

Child's name: \_\_\_\_\_

Parent signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Please circle your preferred method of communication

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Name: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Home phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Cell phone: \_\_\_\_\_